

Appl. No. 09/920,080  
Amdt. dated 3/19/2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 2, 2003

PATENT

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A flexible shelter structure comprising:

an elongated flexible pole under tension in a generally arcuate shape and having a first end and a second end, said first and said second ends ~~terminating in a substantially common plane comprising a surface~~ each in contact with the ground;

~~at least one a plurality of~~ flexible spars each having a first end and a second ends, each said spar flexibly connected to said pole at a point on said pole intermediate said first and said second ends of said pole, and at a point on said spar intermediate said first and said second end of said spar, with each said spar crossing said pole at an angle and being spaced apart relative to other spars along the length of said pole, ~~and at least one of said first and said second ends of each said spar said not terminating in said substantially common plane floating and not in contact with the ground, said spars being under tension in a generally arcuate shape with a radius of curvature greater than that of said elongated flexible pole,~~ said pole and said spars thereby forming a flexible frame structure; and

a membrane connected to said flexible frame structure and defining a substantially sheltered space thereunder, said sheltered space having a volume dependent on said radius of curvature of said spars.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said membrane tensions said pole and said ~~at least one~~ spars.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said ~~at least one spar is~~ spars arranged substantially transversely to cross said elongated flexible pole at a substantially transverse angle.

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Claim 5 (currently amended) The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said ~~at least one spar is~~ spars are directly connected to said elongated flexible pole.

Claim 6 (withdrawn) The frame of claim 1 wherein said at least one spar is indirectly connected to said pole.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said ~~at least one spar has~~ spars are pre-bent in a selected shape.

Claims 8-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended) The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 ~~wherein~~ including a tensioning means is in communication with said elongated flexible pole to place said pole under tension to cause said pole to flex in said substantially arcuate shape.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (withdrawn) The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure intermediate said pole and said spars.

Claim 14 (withdrawn) The flexible shelter structure of claim 2 wherein said membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure intermediate said pole and said spars, and wherein a second membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure over said pole and said spars, thereby forming a space between said membrane and said second membrane.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said elongated flexible pole comprises a plurality of interconnected pole segments.

Claims 16-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (withdrawn) The flexible frame structure of claim 16 wherein one or more of said spars are indirectly connected to said pole.

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Claims 20-24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (withdrawn) A flexible shelter structure comprising:

a plurality of elongated flexible poles each having a first end and a second end, with at least one of said first and second ends terminating in a substantially common plane comprising a surface;

a plurality of spars each having a first end and a second end, each said spar coupled to and crossing at an angle one and only one of said poles at a point intermediate said first and second ends of said pole, said poles and spars forming a flexible frame structure; and

a membrane coupled to said flexible frame and defining a substantially sheltered space thereunder, said sheltered space having a volume dependent on said spars.

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (withdrawn) The frame of claim 25 including a plurality of elongated flexible poles, each having first and second ends terminating in said substantially common plane, and each having at least one spar flexibly coupled thereto and associated only therewith to form a flexible frame structure.

Claim 28 (withdrawn) The frame of claim 27 wherein each of said plurality of poles has a plurality of spars flexibly coupled thereto and associated only therewith to form a flexible structure.

Claim 29 (currently amended) The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 including a guy wire line having a first end engaging connected to a said spar, and a second end terminating substantially in said common plane connected to the ground, and said guy line maintaining said flexible frame structure in a substantially upright position.

Claim 30 (currently amended) The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said membrane engages is connected to said spars, extends substantially to said common plane the ground, and maintains said flexible frame structure in a substantially upright position.